

Substituted SpecificationMANUFACTURING PROCESS FOR COOLING CHANNEL PISTON WITH FORMABLE  
SHOULDERBACKGROUND

[0001] The invention relates to a process for manufacturing a cooling channel piston.

[0002] Using a casting or forging process, it is basically known to manufacture blanks for pistons which include a cooling channel after their final machining. Combinations of the two aforementioned processes are also possible. The forging process suggests itself since a piston manufactured by forging has superior strength characteristics compared with a piston manufactured by casting. In the case of piston blanks manufactured by forging, a complex process is required to introduce a cooling channel into this piston blank in the area of the ring belt. In contrast to cast piston blanks, the lost core process cannot be employed with blanks produced by forging. Consequently, introducing the cooling channel using suitable steps causes a recurring problem. The known methods are to introduce a radially circumferential recess through machining by metal-cutting methods and then to close said recess using suitable means. In so doing, close attention must be paid to the dimensional accuracy of the recess and the means that are intended to close this recess. The result is that an additional cost-intensive procedure is required. Because of the necessary dimensional accuracy, it is correspondingly complex to produce the elements involved.

[0003] A generic procedure is known from DE 35 02 248 C1 for manufacturing a single-piece piston for a combustion engine by forging. In this process, a piston blank is manufactured having a pre-form collar, where this collar is turned down in the upper area of the piston crown by bending over, creating a piston crown shoulder, which together with an area of a piston crown pre-form creates an annular thermally inhibiting gap. Because the collar is bent over in the upper areas of the piston crown, rounded edges are created initially which require reworking of the lateral and top surfaces of the piston blank. A substantial disadvantage additionally results from the bending, which weakens the piston crown so that a piston manufactured in this way is no longer adequate to meet the demands of modern combustion engines with respect to increased ignition pressures and combustion temperatures required to

meet exhaust emissions requirements.

**[0004]** The object of the invention is, therefore, to propose a procedure for manufacturing a piston in which the cooling channel can be produced simply and easily.

#### SUMMARY

**[0005]** This object is achieved by at least one circumferential shoulder is formed, behind the at least one shoulder a recess is introduced and then the at least one shoulder is reshaped by means of deformation such that the recess is closed by the at least one shoulder to create the cooling channel.

**[0006]** In accordance with the invention, at least one circumferential shoulder is formed during the forging process, specifically in the area of the heat dam of the finished piston, a recess is introduced behind this shoulder and subsequently the shoulder is reshaped such that the recess is closed by the shoulder to create the cooling channel. That is to say, the forged piston blank is manufactured with the circumferential shoulder in the area of the heat dam at approximately the level of the first groove of the ring belt. Advantages result with respect to the strength of the piston, and this circumferential shoulder forms part of the cover of a recess to be introduced in the further course of machining. After the circumferential shoulder has been created, the recess with its upper and lower apical radius and the interior wall is worked into the piston blank, and the thusly formed circumferential lug extending from the piston blank is brought into a form which, after reshaping, closes the cover to create the cooling channel. As the result of suitable bending, which can be the result of forging, for example, swaging, being driven through a hollow form or pressure rolling, the circumferential lug is deformed in the direction of the piston axis and thus closes off the recess, where the closure is effected such that a cavity which forms the subsequent cooling channel remains. After this reshaping, the shoulder is joined solidly to the piston blank where it contacts said blank. This can be accomplished, for example, by welding, soldering, bonding or similar. Alternatively, it is also conceivable that the shoulder is furnished with sealing means in the area where it makes contact with the piston blank. By utilizing sealing means between the piston blank and the circumferential edge of the shoulder, the cooling channel is made oil-tight.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] Manufacturing steps to produce a cooling channel piston, to which the invention is in no way restricted, are explained in what follows and described with reference to the figures.

[0008] Figure 1 shows the manufacture of a circumferential upper shoulder,

[0009] Figure 2 shows the introduction of a recess and machining of the upper shoulder,

[00010] Figure 3 shows the positioning of the upper shoulder against the piston blank,

[00011] Figure 4 shows the manufacture of a circumferential lower shoulder,

[00012] Figure 5 show the introduction of a recess and machining of the lower shoulder,

[00013] Figure 6 shows the positioning of the lower shoulder against the piston blank,

[00014] Figure 7 shows a piston blank with an upper and a lower shoulder.

## DESCRIPTION

[00015] Figure 1 shows a simplified drawing of a section from a piston blank 1 which is manufactured at least partially by forging. This piston blank 1 has a piston crown 2 below which piston skirts 3 and piston bosses 4 are disposed in a known way. In the area of the heat dam, which is present in the finished piston, a circumferential shoulder is produced at approximately the level of the first ring groove by forging. The geometric shape of the shoulder 5 is selected such that sufficient material is available to close the recess (not shown in Figure 1) which forms the subsequent cooling channel.

[00016] Figure 2 shows that specifically by a metal-cutting operation a recess 6 with its upper and lower apical radius and the inner wall is worked into the piston blank 1 and the shoulder 5 is brought to a shape which is suitable for closing the recess 6 after reshaping the machined shoulder 5.

[00017] Figure 3 shows the closing of the recess 6 by reshaping the machined shoulder 5. To reshape the machined shoulder, pressure rolling suggests itself since this provides simple shaping with simultaneously good strength characteristics. A proven practice is to heat the area which is to be reshaped by pressure rolling to the necessary forming temperature. This required temperature depends on the geometric characteristics in the reshaping area as well as on the material of which the piston blank 1 consists. After reshaping the reworked shoulder 5, it closes the recess 6 so that the radially circumferential cooling channel 7 is created. The

circumferential end of the machined shoulder 5 comes into contact with the piston blank 1 in a zone 8, where the contact surfaces involved are rigidly joined, or sealing elements can be employed to make the cooling channel 7 oil-tight. Subsequently, a second reworking, specifically a machining operation can be performed on the contact area. A further advantage of the reshaped shoulder is that it exhibits the necessary strength to provide a ring belt there.

**[00018]** Analogous to the geometric embodiments and manufacturing steps described for Figures 1 to 3, Figures 4 to 6 show similar designs and manufacturing steps, with the specific difference that a lower circumferential shoulder is formed, in the case of the piston blank 1 below the piston crown 2. This lower circumferential shoulder 10 is located, for example, at about the level of the crown of the piston boss 4, but it can also be located above or below it. This lower shoulder 10 is also produced by forging the piston blank (Figure 4), where a recess is also subsequently introduced into the piston blank 1 (Figure 5) and the machined lower shoulder 10 is then positioned against the piston blank 1 by mechanical shaping in such a way that the cooling channel 7 is created (Figure 6). The lateral surfaces of the piston blank 1 are then machined, specifically to introduce the recesses for the ring belt 7.

**[00019]** Finally, Figure 7 shows a piston blank 1 which has both a lower shoulder 5 and spaced apart from it a lower shoulder 10, which are produced by forging. In the area of the facing surfaces of the two shoulders 5 and 10 a radially circumferential recess is introduced into the piston blank 1 and then both the upper shoulder 5 and the lower shoulder 10 are positioned against the piston blank in the direction of the recess so that it is closed and the cooling channel 7 is created. Depending on the machining of the two shoulders 5, 10, it is conceivable that after being positioned against the piston blank 1, they make contact at their butt edges or can also overlap one another. Here too, it is conceivable that the two butting surfaces of the shoulders 5, 10 are rigidly joined (e.g. by welding).

List of reference numbers

Piston blank

Piston crown

Piston skirt

Piston boss

(Upper) shoulder

Recess

Cooling channel

Contact area

Ring belt

(Lower) shoulder